

- Thank you, Mike, for the very kind introduction
- I'd also like to thank Crissair and Lockheed Martin for inviting us all here today to recognize the incredible contributions you make not only to our National Security, but also to California's workforce and economy.
- Congratulations to Mike and the Crissair team on being recognized as an Elite Supplier. There are well over 1500 other firms who contribute to the F-35, and to have been selected for excellence from that pool is a tremendous accomplishment.
- That is a direct reflection on the fantastic employees at this facility; I hope you realize the importance of the work you are doing – you are directly contributing to our nation's defense, and we appreciate everything you do on a daily basis to make sure our children and our grandchildren are safe and protected.
- I'm proud that jobs are being created in this area because of the Joint Strike Fighter Program. The F-35 Lightning II is not just another aircraft. It represents a generational leap in stealth, lethality, survivability, and cost effectiveness. It will be a centerpiece of the future American air and strike supremacy.
- Investing in technology found on this aircraft is necessary to counter the advanced threats our nation faces today and will face in the years to come. We need to ensure that we maintain a competitive edge over our adversaries, and the F-35 was designed to do just that.
- Most importantly, we need the F-35 so that our men and women in harm's way come home safely. No American service member should ever be in a fair fight. Our advantage over our adversaries should be so great that it deters their aggression and ensures American diplomatic and military leverage.

- Analysis shows that the F-35 will be 6 times more effective than legacy fighters in air-to-air combat, 5 times more effective in air-to-ground combat, and 6 times more effective in reconnaissance and suppression of air defenses – all while having better range and requiring less logistics support.
- I am encouraged by the progress I see on the F-35 program. With more than 310 aircraft flying today, the program appears to have hit its stride and is gaining momentum toward full rate production. And all the while the cost keeps coming down.
- In fact, by 2020 the F-35 Air Force variant could cost as low as \$80 million per jet. That means that our men and women would be getting 5th generation technology at 4th generation prices. For the same cost, you will get a huge leap in capability compared to the legacy or 4th generation aircraft flying today.
- This program is a national asset and is not only critical to the United States, but also to many of our key allies. Eight international partner countries and three foreign military sales customers have contributed funding to the development program and committed to procure aircraft to ensure that our allies will be able to operate and fight alongside U.S. forces to defend and protect our freedoms.
- It is my view that we must begin to increase production rates to continue reducing unit costs and to ensure the United States and our allies get the 5th generation aircraft they need at an affordable price.
- Now is the time we all need to take action to ensure that we have a strong national defense and ensure that we can project power in the air and at sea.

- I am a proud supporter of our men and women in uniform and the industrial base that partners with our Department of Defense to defend and protect our freedoms.
- And I'm proud to represent Valencia in the United States House of Representatives.
- Again, I want to thank Mike and the employees of Crissair for having me here today, and thank you to Lockheed Martin for bringing the cockpit here. I'm excited to fly it; I just hope I don't crash it! Thank you all for the great work that you and the entire F-35 team are doing for our nation's defense.